

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 2-5, 9-18, 20-23, 27, 31, 32, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43, 44, and 112-117 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 6-8, 19, 24-26, 28-30, 33, 34, 37, 38, 41, 42, and 45-49 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A speech ~~voice~~ synthesizing apparatus for converting a plurality of text data into a synthetic speech ~~voice~~ and outputting it, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

speech ~~voice~~ waveform generating means for generating the synthetic speech ~~voice~~ ~~waveform~~ waveforms of said plurality of text data;

overlap detecting means for detecting the overlap of the synthetic speech waveforms ~~voice outputs~~ of a the plurality of said text data; and

display control means for controlling the displaying of a setting screen configured to set the importance of said plurality of text data in response to the output of said overlap detecting means;

volume determining means for determining the volumes of the synthetic speech waveforms of each of said plurality of text data on the basis of the importance of said plurality of text data set by the setting screen; and

speech ~~voice~~ output means for speech ~~voice~~-synthesizing and outputting the synthetic ~~speech~~ ~~voice~~ waveforms generated from said plurality of text data whose ~~of which the~~ overlap has been detected ~~in different volumes~~ at the volume determined by said volume determining means.

2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 2 1, further comprising ~~characterized by the provision of~~ receiving means for receiving said plurality of text data and data on the importance of the plurality of ~~priority data indicative of the priority of~~ ~~said plurality of~~ text data from the outside of the said apparatus.

7. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ when two synthetic speech waveforms ~~voices~~ overlap each other, said speech voice output means makes the ~~rate of the~~ volume of one synthetic speech waveform ~~voice~~ into  $a/(a+b)$  and makes the ~~rate of the~~ volume of the other synthetic speech waveform ~~voice~~ into  $b/(a+b)$ , ~~where a is a value of (a: a parameter concerned with~~ of the importance of said the one synthetic speech waveform ~~voice~~, ~~b: a and b is a value of a parameter concerned with~~ of the importance of ~~said the~~ other synthetic speech waveform ~~voice~~).

8. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein when three or more synthetic speech waveforms ~~voices~~ overlap one another, said speech voice output means makes the ~~rate of the~~ volume of each output synthetic speech waveform ~~voice~~ into a value obtained by dividing the value of an importance parameter ~~concerned with~~ of the importance of said the synthetic speech waveform ~~voice~~ by the sum total of the values of importance parameters of all the synthetic speech waveforms ~~voices~~ outputted in overlapping relation with one another.

9-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing method applied to a speech voice synthesizing apparatus for converting a plurality of text data into a synthetic speech voice and outputting it, ~~characterized by said method comprising: the voice waveform generating step of generating the voice waveform of said text data; the~~

a receiving step of receiving the plurality of text data;

a speech waveform generating step of generating synthetic speech waveforms from the received plurality of text data;

an overlap detecting step of detecting the overlap of the synthetic speech waveforms voice outputs of a the plurality of said the text data; data; and the

a display control step of controlling displaying a setting screen configured to set the importance of the plurality of text data in response to the output of said overlap detecting step;

a volume determining step of determining the volumes of the synthetic speech waveforms of each of the plurality of text data on the basis of the importance of the plurality text data set in the setting screen; and

a speech voice outputting step of speech voice-synthesizing and outputting the synthetic speech voice waveforms generated from the plurality of the said text data whose of which said the overlap has been detected in different volumes at the volume determined by said volume determining step.

20-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing method according to Claim 20 19, ~~characterized by further comprising the receiving step of receiving said plurality of text data and the step of receiving data on the importance of the plurality of priority data indicative of the priority of said plurality of text data from the outside of the apparatus.~~

25. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing method according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ when two synthetic speech waveforms voices overlap each other, said speech voice outputting step makes the ~~rate of the~~ volume of one ~~voice~~ synthetic speech waveform into  $a/(a+b)$  and makes the ~~rate of the~~ volume of the other synthetic speech waveform voice into  $b/(a+b)$ , ~~where a is a value of a (a: a parameter concerned with of the importance of said the one speech waveform voice, and b is a value of a b: a parameter concerned with of the importance of said the other speech waveform voice).~~

26. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing method according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ when three or more ~~voices~~ synthetic speech waveforms overlap one another, said speech voice outputting step makes the ~~rate of the~~ volume of each output ~~voice~~ synthetic speech waveform have into a value obtained by dividing the value of an importance parameter ~~concerned with of the importance of said the synthetic speech waveform voice~~ by the sum total of the values of importance parameters of all ~~voices~~ synthetic speech waveforms outputted in overlapping relationship with one another.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing therein a control program for making a computer ~~realize a~~ perform the speech voice synthesizing method according to ~~any one of Claims Claim~~ Claim 19 to 22 and 24 to 27.

29. (Currently Amended) A control program for making a computer ~~realize a~~ perform the speech voice synthesizing method according to ~~any one of Claims Claim~~ Claim 19 to 22 and 24 to 27.

30. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing apparatus for converting a plurality of text data into a synthetic speech voice and outputting it, said apparatus comprising: characterized by the provision of

a speech voice synthesizing means for synthesizer configured to generate generating the synthetic voices speech waveforms of a the plurality of said text data in accordance with the priority importance of said the plurality of text data and outputting the synthetic speech waveforms them at a one time comprising: time

display control means for controlling the displaying of a setting screen configured to set the importance of the plurality of text data;

volume determining means for determining the volumes of the synthetic speech waveforms of each of said plurality of text data on the basis of the importance of the plurality of text data set by the setting screen; and

speech output means for speech-synthesizing and outputting synthetic speech waveforms generated from said plurality of text data at the volume determined by said volume determining means.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 30, ~~characterized by the provision of~~ further comprising receiving means for receiving ~~said the~~ plurality of text data and importance priority data indicative of the ~~priority~~ importance of ~~said the~~ plurality of text data from the outside of the apparatus.

34. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing apparatus for converting a plurality of text data into a synthetic speech voice and outputting it, said apparatus comprising: ~~characterized by the provision of~~

a speech voice waveform generator configured to generate ~~generating means for~~ generating the synthetic speech voice waveform waveforms of the plurality of said text data; ~~data;~~

a display controller configured to control the displaying of a setting screen configured to set the importance of said plurality of text data;

a volume determining device configured to determine the volumes of the synthetic speech waveforms of each of said plurality of the text data on the basis of the importance of said plurality of text data set by the setting screen; and

a speech voice output device configured to perform means for speech voice-synthesizing synthesizing the synthetic speech voice waveforms generated from said the plurality of text data

in at different volumes determined by said volume determining device and outputting the synthetic speech waveforms ~~them~~ at a one time.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 34, ~~characterized by the provision of~~ further comprising receiving means for receiving ~~said~~ the plurality of text data and ~~priority~~ data indicative of the ~~priority~~ importance of ~~said~~ the plurality of text data from the outside of the apparatus.

38. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing method applied to a speech voice synthesizing apparatus for converting a plurality of text data into a synthetic speech voice and outputting it, ~~characterized by the~~ said method comprising:

a speech voice outputting step of generating synthetic ~~voices~~ speech waveforms of a the plurality of ~~said~~ text data in accordance with the ~~priority~~ importance of ~~said~~ the plurality of text data and outputting the synthetic speech waveforms ~~them~~ at a one time, comprising:

a speech waveform generating step of generating synthetic speech waveforms from the plurality of the text data;

a display control step of controlling the displaying of a setting screen configured to set the importance of the plurality of text data;

a volume determining step of determining the volumes of the synthetic speech waveforms of each of the plurality of text data on the basis of the importance of the plurality text data set by the setting screen; and  
a speech outputting step of speech-synthesizing and outputting the synthetic speech waveforms generated from the plurality of the text data at the volume determined by said volume determining step at one time.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing method according to Claim 38, further comprising a ~~characterized by the~~ receiving step of receiving ~~said~~ the plurality of text data and priority importance data indicative of the priority importance of ~~said~~ the plurality of text data from the outside of the apparatus.

42. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing method applied to a speech voice synthesizing apparatus for converting a plurality of text data into a synthetic speech voice and outputting it, ~~characterized by the~~ said method comprising:

a speech voice waveform generating step of generating the synthetic speech voice waveforms of said plurality of text data; and ~~data; and the~~



a speech voice outputting step of speech voice-synthesizing the synthetic speech voice waveforms generated from ~~said~~ the plurality of text data ~~in~~ at different volumes and outputting ~~them~~ the synthetic speech waveforms at a one time comprising:

a display control step of controlling the displaying of a setting screen configured to set the importance of the plurality of text data;

a volume determining step of determining the volumes of the synthetic speech waveforms of each of the plurality of text data on the basis of the relative importance of the plurality of text data set by the setting screen; and

a step of speech-synthesizing and outputting the synthetic speech waveforms generated from the plurality of text data at the volume determined by said volume determining step at one time.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A speech voice synthesizing method according to Claim 42, ~~characterized by the~~ further comprising a receiving step of receiving ~~said~~ the plurality of text data and priority importance data indicative of the priority importance of ~~said~~ the plurality of text data from the outside of the apparatus.

46. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing therein a control program for making a computer perform ~~realize a~~ the speech voice synthesizing method according to ~~any one of Claims 38 to~~ Claim 38 or Claim 41.

47. (Currently Amended) A control program for making a computer ~~realize a~~ perform the speech voice synthesizing method according to ~~any one of Claims 38 to~~ Claim 38 or Claim 41.

48. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing therein a control program for making a computer ~~realize a~~ perform the speech voice synthesizing method according to ~~any one of Claims 42 to~~ Claim 42 or Claim 45.

49. (Currently Amended) A control program for making a computer ~~realize a~~ perform a speech voice synthesizing method according to ~~any one of Claims 42 to~~ Claim 42 or Claim 45.

50. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by:

voice waveform generating means for generating the voice waveform of said text data;

and

voice output means for voice-synthesizing a plurality of said text data with different kinds of voices and outputting them.

51. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 50, characterized in that said different kinds of voices differ in frequency band from each other.

52. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 50, characterized in that said voice output means has a phoneme storing portion storing therein a plurality of kinds of phoneme data corresponding to said different kinds of voices, and a voice waveform generating portion for processing said phoneme data in accordance with processing parameters corresponding to said different kinds of voices, and generating synthetic voices.

53. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 52, characterized in that said processing parameters include at least one of a frequency band, a voice level and a voice speed.

54. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 50, characterized in that said different kinds of voices are voices corresponding to different sexes.

55. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 50, characterized by the provision of selecting means for selecting any of a predetermined number of kinds of voices, and in that said voice output means generates a synthetic voice in accordance with said selected voice and outputs it.

56. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 50, characterized in that said different kinds of voices differ in height from each other.

57. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 50, characterized in that said voice output means selectively outputs a predetermined number of kinds of voices in predetermined order.

58. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 50, characterized in that said different kinds of voices are voices corresponding to different ages.

59. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by voice waveform generating means for generating the voice waveform of said text data, and voice output means for causing respective voices to be outputted from different uttering means when the overlapping of the voice outputs of a plurality of said text data is detected.

60. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 59, characterized by setting means capable of arbitrarily setting said uttering means used.

61. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to any one of Claims 50 to 60, characterized in that it is applicable to a system for making conversation by said text data through Internet.

62. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system provided with a voice output apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, and an external apparatus for transmitting said text data to said voice output apparatus, characterized in that said voice output

apparatus has voice waveform generating means for generating the voice waveform of said text data, and voice output means for voice-synthesizing a plurality of said text data with different kinds of voices and outputting them.

63. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 62, characterized in that said different kinds of voices differ in frequency band from each other.

64. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 62, characterized in that said voice output means has a phoneme storing portion storing therein a plurality of kinds of phoneme data corresponding to said different kinds of voices, and a voice waveform generating portion for processing said phoneme data in accordance with processing parameters corresponding to said different kinds of voices, and generating a synthetic voice.

65. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 64, characterized in that said processing parameters include at least one of a frequency band, a voice level and a voice speed.

66. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 62, characterized in that said different kinds of voices are voices corresponding to different sexes.

67. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to claim 62, characterized in that said voice output apparatus is provided with selecting means for selecting any of a

predetermined number of kinds of voices, and said voice output means generates a synthetic voice in accordance with said selected voice and outputs it.

68. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 62, characterized in that said different kinds of voices differ in height from each other.

69. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 62, characterized in that said voice output means selectively outputs a predetermined number of kinds of voices in predetermined order.

70. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 62, characterized in that said different kinds of voices are voices corresponding to different ages.

71. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system provided with a voice output apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, and an external apparatus for transmitting said text data to said voice output apparatus, characterized in that said voice output apparatus has voice waveform generating means for generating the voice waveform of said text data, and voice output means for causing respective voices to be outputted from different uttering means when the overlapping of the voice outputs of a plurality of said text data is detected.

72. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 71, characterized in that said voice output apparatus has setting means capable of arbitrarily setting said uttering means used.

73. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to any one of Claims 62 to 71, characterized in that it is applicable to a system for making conversation by said text data through Internet.

74. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method applied to a voice output apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by the voice waveform generating step of generating the voice waveform of said text data, and the voice outputting step of voice-synthesizing a plurality of said text data with different kinds of voices and outputting them.

75. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 74, characterized in that said different kinds of voices differ in frequency band from each other.

76. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 74, characterized in that said voice outputting step has the phoneme storing step of storing a plurality of kinds of phoneme data corresponding to said different kinds of voices, and the voice waveform generating step of processing said phoneme data in accordance with processing parameters corresponding to said different kinds of voices, and generating a synthetic voice.

77. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 74, characterized in that said processing parameters include at least one of a frequency band, a voice level and a voice speed.

78. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 74, characterized in that said different kinds of voices are voices corresponding to different sexes.

79. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 74, characterized by the selecting step of selecting any of a predetermined number of kinds of voices, and in that at said voice outputting step, a synthetic voice is generated in accordance with said selected voice and outputted.

80. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 74, characterized in that said different kinds of voices differ in height from each other.

81. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 74, characterized in that at said voice outputting step, a predetermined number of kinds of voices are selectively outputted in predetermined order.

82. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 74, characterized in that said different kinds of voices are voices corresponding to different ages.

83. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method applied to a voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by the voice waveform generating step of generating the voice waveform of said text data, and the voice outputting step of causing respective voices to be outputted from different uttering means when the overlapping of the voice outputs of a plurality of said text data is detected.



84. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 83, characterized by the setting step capable of arbitrarily setting said uttering means used.

85. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to any one of Claims 74 to 84, characterized in that it is applicable to a system for making conversation by said text data through Internet.

86. (Withdrawn) A storage medium storing therein a control program for making a computer realize a voice synthesizing method according to any one of Claims 25 to 27 and 30 to 33.

87. (Withdrawn) A control program for making a computer realize a voice synthesizing method according to any one of Claims 34 to 36.

88. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by:

voice waveform generating means for generating the voice waveform of said text data;  
and

voice output means for upping the reproduction speed of the voice waveform and outputting the voice waveform when the overlap of the reproduction timing of the voice waveforms of a plurality of said text data is detected.

89. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 88, characterized in that said voice output means outputs at a reproduction speed somewhat higher than an ordinary reproduction speed when at the present point of time, there is a voice waveform under voice reproduction and the number of voice waveforms waiting for voice reproduction is one, and outputs at still a higher speed when at the present point of time, there is a voice waveform under voice reproduction and the number of voice waveforms waiting for voice reproduction is two or more.

90. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 88, characterized in that it is possible for said voice output means to up the reproduction speed at fine steps conforming to the number of voice waveforms waiting for voice reproduction.

91. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by:

voice waveform generating means for generating the voice waveform of said text data;  
and

voice output means for providing, when voice waveforms concerned with a plurality of said text data are to be reproduced, a predetermined blank period after the termination of the reproduction of a preceding voice waveform and before the start of the reproduction of the next voice waveform.

92. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 91, characterized in that said blank period can be set arbitrarily.

93. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by:

voice waveform generating means for generating the voice waveform of said text data;

and

voice output means for reproducing, when voice waveforms concerned with a plurality of said text data are to be reproduced, a prepared specific voice synthesis waveform after the termination of the reproduction of a preceding voice waveform and before the start of the reproduction of the next voice waveform.

94. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 93, characterized in that said specific voice synthesis waveform is the voice synthesis waveform of a voice message which can be distinctly known as punctuation inserted between said preceding voice waveform and said next voice waveform.

95. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to any one of Claims 88 to 94, characterized in that it is applicable to a system for voice-broadcasting said text data in various facilities such as recreation grounds, and a system for making conversation by said text data through Internet.

96. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system provided with a voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, and an external apparatus for transmitting said text data to said voice synthesizing apparatus, characterized in that said voice synthesizing apparatus has voice waveform generating means for generating the

voice waveform of said text data, and voice output means for upping the reproduction speed of the voice waveform and outputting the voice waveform when the overlap of the reproduction timing of the voice waveforms of a plurality of said text data is detected.

97. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 96, characterized in that said voice output means of said voice synthesizing apparatus outputs at a reproduction speed somewhat higher than an ordinary reproduction speed when at the present point of time, there is a voice waveform under voice reproduction and the number of voice waveforms waiting for voice reproduction is one, and outputs at still a higher reproduction speed when at the present point of time, there is a voice waveform under voice reproduction and the number of voice waveforms waiting for voice reproduction is two or more.

98. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 96, characterized in that it is possible for said voice output means of said voice synthesizing apparatus to up the reproduction speed at fine steps conforming to the number of voice waveforms waiting for voice reproduction.

99. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system provided with a voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice, and an external apparatus for transmitting said text data to said voice synthesizing apparatus, characterized in that said voice synthesizing apparatus has voice waveform generating means for generating the voice waveform of said text data, and voice output means for providing, when voice waveforms concerned with a plurality of said text data are to be reproduced, a predetermined blank period after the termination

of the reproduction of a preceding voice waveform and before the start of the reproduction of the next voice waveform.

100. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 99, characterized in that said blank period can be set arbitrarily.

101. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system provided with a voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, and an external apparatus for transmitting said text data to said voice synthesizing apparatus, characterized in that said voice synthesizing apparatus has voice waveform generating means for generating the voice waveform of said text data, and voice output means for reproducing, when voice waveforms concerned with a plurality of said text data are to be reproduced, a prepared specific voice synthesis waveform after the termination of the reproduction of a preceding voice waveform and before the start of the reproduction of the next voice waveform.

102. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to Claim 101, characterized in that said specific voice synthesis waveform is the voice synthesis waveform of a voice message which can be distinctly known as punctuation inserted between said preceding voice waveform and said next voice waveform.

103. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing system according to any one of Claims 96 to 102, characterized in that it is applicable to a system for voice-broadcasting said text data in

various facilities such as recreation grounds, and a system for making conversation by said text data through Internet.

104. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method applied to a voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by the voice waveform generating step of generating the voice waveform of said text data, and the voice outputting step of upping the reproduction speed of the voice waveform and outputting the voice waveform when the overlap of the reproduction timing of the voice waveforms of a plurality of said text data is detected.

105. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 104, characterized in that at said voice outputting step, the voice waveform is outputted at a reproduction speed somewhat higher than an ordinary reproduction speed when at the present point of time, there is a voice waveform under voice reproduction and the number of voice waveforms waiting for voice reproduction is one, and the voice waveform is outputted at still a higher speed when at the present point of time, there is a voice waveform under voice reproduction and the number of voice waveforms waiting for voice reproduction is two or more.

106. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 104, characterized in that at said voice outputting step, it is possible to up the reproduction speed at fine steps conforming to the number of voice waveforms waiting for voice reproduction.

107. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method applied to a voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by the voice waveform generating step of generating the voice waveform of said text data, and the voice outputting step of providing, when voice waveforms concerned with a plurality of said text data are to be reproduced, a predetermined blank period after the termination of the reproduction of a preceding voice waveform and before the start of the reproduction of the next voice waveform.

108. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 107, characterized in that said blank period can be set arbitrarily.

109. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method applied to a voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by the voice waveform generating step of generating the voice waveform of said text data, and the voice outputting step of reproducing, when voice waveforms concerned with a plurality of said text data are to be reproduced, a prepared specific voice synthesis waveform after the termination of the reproduction of a preceding voice waveform and before the start of the reproduction of the next voice waveform.

110. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 109, characterized in that said specific voice synthesis waveform is the voice synthesis waveform of a voice message which can be distinctly known as punctuation inserted between said preceding voice waveform and said next voice waveform.

111. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to any one of Claim 104 to 109, characterized in that it is applicable to a system for voice-broadcasting said text data in various facilities such as recreation grounds, and a system for making conversation by said text data through Internet.

112-117 (Canceled)

118. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by the provision of:

input means for inputting said text data;

voice waveform generating means for generating the voice waveform of said text data;

voice output means for outputting a voice concerned with said voice waveform; and

control means for controlling, when a voice waveform by the inputting of second said text data is detected during the outputting of a voice concerned with first said text data, said voice output means so as to output a voice concerned with said second text data after the outputting of a voice concerned with said first text data has been terminated.

119. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 118, characterized in that said control means controls said voice output means so as to make the reproduction speed of a voice waveform concerned with said first text data higher than an ordinary speed in conformity with the detection of a voice waveform by said second text data.



120. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 118, characterized in that said control means controls said voice output means so as to start the outputting of a voice concerned with said second text data after a predetermined period has elapsed after the termination of the outputting of a voice concerned with said first text data.

121. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 118, characterized in that said control means controls said voice output means so as to output a predetermined voice after the termination of the outputting of the voice concerned with said first text data, and thereafter output the voice concerned with said second text data.

122. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 118, characterized in that said control means outputs the voice concerned with said first text data and the voice concerned with said second text data at an ordinary reproduction speed.

123. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing apparatus according to Claim 118, characterized by the provision of storage means for storing therein voice waveform data generated by said voice waveform generating means, and in that said control means controls said voice output means so as to change the reproduction speed of said voice waveform in conformity with the number of the voice waveform data conforming to said inputted text data stored in said storage means.

124. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method applied to a voice synthesizing apparatus for converting text data into a synthetic voice and outputting it, characterized by:

the inputting step of inputting said text data;  
the voice waveform generating step of generating the voice waveform of said text data;  
the voice outputting step of outputting a voice concerned with said voice waveform; and  
the controlling step of controlling, when the voice waveform by the inputting of second said text data is detected during the outputting of a voice concerned with first said text data, said voice outputting step so as to output a voice concerned with said second text data after the outputting of the voice concerned with said first text data is terminated.

125. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 124, characterized in that at said controlling step, said voice outputting step is controlled so as to make the reproduction speed of a voice waveform concerned with said first text data higher than an ordinary speed in conformity with the detection of a voice waveform by said second text data.

126. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 124, characterized in that at said controlling step, said voice outputting step is controlled so as to start the outputting of the voice concerned with said second text data after a predetermined period has elapsed after the termination of the outputting of the voice concerned with said first text data.

127. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 124, characterized in that at said controlling step, said voice outputting step is controlled so as to output the voice concerned with said second text data after a predetermined voice has been outputted after the outputting of the voice concerned with said first text data.

128. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 124, characterized in that at said controlling step, the voice concerned with said first text data and the voice concerned with said second text data are outputted at an ordinary reproduction speed.

129. (Withdrawn) A voice synthesizing method according to Claim 124, characterized by the storing step of storing voice waveform data generated by said voice waveform generating step, and in that at said controlling step, said voice outputting step is controlled so as to change the reproduction speed of said voice waveform in conformity with the number of the voice waveform data conforming to said inputted text data stored at said storing step.

130. (Withdrawn) A storage medium storing therein a control program for making a computer realize a voice synthesizing method according to any one of Claims 124 to 129.

131. (Withdrawn) A control program for making a computer realize a voice synthesizing method according to any one of Claims 124 to 129.